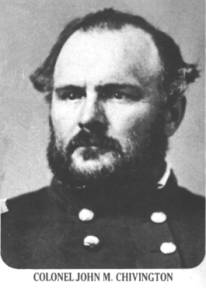
**Ballad of Ira Hayes[[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2)[[3]](#footnote-3)**

**

Colonel John M. Chivington

**"the Cheyennes will have to be roundly whipped -- or completely wiped out -- before they will be quiet. I say that if any of them are caught in your vicinity, the only thing to do is kill them."**

**On the morning of November 29, 1864…So great was the fear of the coming charge that men, women, and children ran from their lodges into the biting cold taking no time to fully dress. The partially dressed Indians began to gather under a huge American flag above Black Kettles lodge (**[**Black Kettle**](http://www.lastoftheindependents.com/BlackKettle.html) **was given the huge American flag and peace medals by Abraham Lincoln and Colonel A. B. Greenwood in Washington only a year earlier and was told that as long as the American flag was above them, no one would be harmed). The braves present surrounded the women and children gathered under the flag. At 8:00 am more than 700 cavalry men under the command of Colonel John M. Chivington and Major Scott J. Anthony, rode in and fired on the huddled Indians from two directions. After the initial charge the US soldiers dismounted and continued the indiscriminate killing of men, women, and children. During the killing unspeakable atrocities and mutilations were committed by the soldiers. Accounts from two white men, John S. Smith and Lieutenant James Connor, described the acts of dehumanization."   
  
According to John S. Smith, Colonel Chivington knew these Indians to be peaceful before the massacre. Smith witnessed, as did helpless Indian mothers and fathers, young children having their sex organs cut away. U.S. soldiers mutilated Native American women, cutting away their breasts and removing all other sex organs. After the Massacre, soldiers displayed the women's severed body parts on their hats and stretched them over their saddle-bows while riding in the ranks. The sex organs of every male were removed in the most grotesque manner. One soldier boasted that he would make a tobacco pouch with the removed privates of White Antelope, a respected elder. Conner witnessed a soldier displaying the body parts of a woman on a stick. The fingers of Indians were cut off to get at the rings on them. Connor remembered a baby only a few months old who had been hidden in the feed box of a wagon for protection. When the soldiers discovered the baby some time later, the baby was thrown onto the frozen ground to die. In going over the site the next day, it was noted that every corpse was mutilated in some way, and scalped.**

***THESE ACTS OUGHT NOT BE HONORED! LETS LEARN FROM THIS…AND DO NOT HONOR THE DISHONORABLE.***

Gather round me people, and a story I will tell   
About a brave young Indian you should remember well   
From the tribe of Pima Indians, a proud and a peaceful band   
They farmed the Phoenix valley in Arizona land   
Down their ditches for a thousand years the sparkling water rushed   
Till the white man stole their water rights and the running water hushed   
Now Ira's folks were hungry, and their farms grew crops of weeds   
But when war came, he volunteered and forgot the white man's greed.   
  
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war   
Yes, call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war.   
  
They started up Iwo Jima hill, two hundred and fifty men   
But only twenty-seven lived to walk back down that hill again   
And when the fight was over and Old Glory raised   
One of the men who held it high was the Indian, Ira Hayes.   
  
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war   
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war.   
  
Ira returned a hero, celebrated throughout the land   
He was wined and speeched and honored, everybody shook his hand   
But he was just a Pima Indian - no money, no crops, no chance -   
And at home nobody cared what Ira'd done, and when do the Indians dance?   
  
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war   
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war.   
  
Then Ira started drinking hard, jail was often his home   
They let him raise the flag there and lower it like you'd throw a dog a bone   
He died drunk early one morning, alone in the land he'd fought to save   
Two inches of water in a lonely ditch was the grave for Ira Hayes.   
  
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war   
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war.   
  
Yes, call him drunken Ira Hayes, but his land is still as dry   
And his ghost is lying thirsty in the ditch where Ira died.   
  
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war   
Call him drunken Ira Hayes   
He won't answer anymore   
Not the whiskey-drinking Indian   
Or the Marine who went to war.

Do Indians receive money from the government?

Not necessarily. The federal government does not give Indians money "just for being Indian".

Not necessarily. The federal government does not give Indians money "just for being Indian".

1. Lyracs for Ballad of Ira Hayes from <http://www.leoslyrics.com/listlyrics.php?hid=23DPNoIcHBU%3D>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Colonel John M. Chivington information from <http://www.lastoftheindependents.com/chivington.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Information about “do Indians receive money from the government?” from <http://www.nativenashville.com/indian_faqs.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)